

# Millersburg Glass Association Newsletter

Winter 2021 Edition — Volume 1

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Millersburg Glass Association

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Multi-Fruits & Flowers Sale 10-9-20

## ***The Multi Fruits & Flowers Large Water Pitchers***

It is always interesting to learn the value of prominent Millersburg Glass items.

It is a bonus to know who the proud new owners are and where the glass' new home is.

The chain of ownership is part of the history and legend of Millersburg Glass.

If these precious glass items could talk, they would have stories to tell.



In a [The Bargain Hunter](#) article, Dave Mast, reporter and a Millersburg Glass Collector himself, provides readers with a preview of the Millersburg Glass Association coming events of Friday, October 9, 2020. He explains that due to Covid-19 precautions, the Wroda Millersburg Glass Auction will be held at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Berlin, Ohio, just 6-7 minutes east of Millersburg. The auction is slated for 6:00 pm after the 3:00 preview of approximately 287 pieces of carnival and crystal Millersburg Glass. A meal and seminar on Rosalind glass is set for 5:00 pm.

Wroda Auctions in Millersburg usually follow a Friday-Saturday format, but under the circumstances while we all manage health risks, the new one-day schedule should work quite well. Many carnival glass conventions have been cancelled in 2020. The Comfort Inn and Suites in Berlin, Ohio has provided excellent accommodations and addressed all safety concerns with spacing of seats, masks, gloves, sanitizers and good health protocols.

A special feature in the glass collection are the five large carnival glass radium nicely iridescent Multi-Fruits & Flowers pitchers. The pitchers are beautiful. The owner living in Canada has had these five eye-catching pitchers and some accompanying tumblers on display at the Millersburg Glass Museum for a full year for visitors to enjoy. The collector owns nine of the twelve known pitchers. He would have liked to sell the five as a unit, but the price could go out of reach for one new owner. A resident of Millersburg donated a stainless steel cabinet with glass on all sides to house the “gang of five” pitchers in the Museum. The lighting of the five large water pitchers is total eye-candy!!

Other celebrated Millersburg Glass carnival items in the auction include a scarce radium, purple (amethyst) Rose Columns vase with iridized blue and multi-color tones, a blue Peacock at Urn 3-1 edge bowl with an exceptional dark blue base color, a rare Vaseline Holly Sprig 3-1 edge ruffled bowl and an iridescent, pastel Marigold Mitered Ovals vase are something to see. These are just a sampling of bidder opportunities. One could fill up a wheelbarrow with excellent choices.

The seminar presentation about Rosalind glass led by Steve Maag and supporting comments by Jim Wroda and Randy Jones will prove to be quite interesting. Comments will address the display of some 12-15 items in different styles and shapes of the Rosalind pattern. Like many of John Fenton’s designs, Rosalind is geometric. It emulates a pebble being tossed in a pond. From the epicenter, the rippling effect extends out to the edge of the bowl. One could say that it has radiating arcs reminiscent of a peacock tail. It is a relatively scarce pattern that appears in different sized bowls and compotes. The pattern was also used as the interior of the Millersburg’s rare Dolphins compotes.

Source: Article, “Millersburg Glass,” by Dave Mast in [The Bargain Hunter—Holmes](#), October 3, 2020, page 51 and observations by the Newsletter Editor.

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## **A Post-Auction Article**

### ***Rare Pitchers Excite Glass Collectors at MGA’s Annual Auction***

Pitchers were on parade as the central focal point of this year’s annual Millersburg Glass Association Auction that took place at Comfort Inn and Suites in Berlin, Ohio on Friday, October 9, 2020.

While COVID-19 chased away the Holmes County Antique Festival, during which time the MGA hosts the event, it didn’t deter the association from bringing a large collection of glass together to auction off, and it was a series of pitchers from Canada that proved to be the highlight.

The Multi Fruits & Flowers water pitchers didn't disappoint. The first one on the auction block was the one-of-a-kind marigold that went for \$40,000. The green water pitcher and set of tumblers then brought \$37,000. The painted purple pitcher with a collar base then drew \$9,000, and a purple pitcher went for \$5,000. A rare purple pitcher with a drape base garnered \$6,500, the entire five-pitcher set brought in \$97,500.



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### **Travels—Where Did the Pitchers Go? Here Are More Results With Some Details**

Now we rely on our many glass collectors to observe, purchase and report about the travels taken by a myriad of glass favorites and trophies. Let us turn our attention to the large Multi-Fruits & Flowers carnival pitchers presented at the Matt Wroda Auction on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

The first one available for bidding at the auction was the gorgeous, one-of-a-kind, large marigold water pitcher that sold for \$40,000. It traveled from Saskatoon in Saskatchewan Province in Canada, located north of North Dakota and Montana, to its new home in North Carolina.

One out-of-state couple purchased two of the pitchers, including the \$40,000 marigold piece, while three other pitchers stayed here in Holmes County accounting for all six large pitchers auctioned. Millersburg Glass Museum owner, Chris Sieverdes, had been showcasing five precious pitchers for months and had gotten used to enjoying them as part of the museum collection. Only one will return, as Sieverdes was able to purchase the least expensive purple pitcher, along with a couple of other unique pieces.

An on-line bidder from Oregon purchased a very attractive green water pitcher for \$37,000 with tumblers. The audience gasped—in as much as several bidders present in the auction room were quite interested in the highly desirable piece. A second large pitcher, a nice purple amethyst one, was purchased by a collector in North Carolina.

The painted purple pitcher with a collar base drew \$9,000, and a rare purple pitcher with a drape base garnered \$6,500. These two special pitchers will stay in the greater Millersburg, Ohio “metropolitan area” in the collection of one owner. Another green pitcher was added to the auction. It also was sold to a collector in Ohio. The last purple amethyst pitcher with a collar base went for \$5,000 and will remain in the Millersburg Glass Museum collection. As noted earlier, the original, one-owner, five-pitcher set from Canada on display at the Millersburg Glass Museum for the past year, brought a total of \$97,500.

Local collector Andy Lycans also purchased one of the purple pitchers, and was delighted to do so, adding to a pitcher collection that his father began years ago. “I would have loved to have the marigold,” Lycans said of the pitchers. “My dad collects water pitchers so this was a great opportunity for me.”

### **On-Line Bidding**

On-line bidders were active. This livened up the proceedings and kept bidders and those taking bids on their toes. It added a new dimension to the auction, but in the end, Wroda said the majority of the glass was purchased by on-site bidders. “Adding the internet bidding did well and added value to the auction,” Jim Wroda said. “We didn’t have a buyer premium. Percentage-wise, I’d say only about 10 percent went to online bidders, but they did play a huge role in being the back-up bidder, which is always such an integral part of any auction.” Wroda said that when they assess the value of an auction, they don’t really look at what each individual piece brings, but rather what they bring collectively. He felt sure that the auction got very close to what they expected the total to be.

Randy Jones, president of the Millersburg Glass Association, said the uniqueness of this auction and the unfortunate circumstances that led to the cancellation of the Antique Festival didn’t take away from the joy and competitive nature of collectors. He said early on, the MGA was certain they would present the auction in some fashion. He said the way it all came together was a group effort.

“We put feelers out and the response to move ahead with the auction was positive, so we cut the total number of pieces in half and went to one day instead of two days. We went above and beyond to keep people safe and we were pleased with the turnout, because this is always an exciting event for the people of Holmes County.”

Normally the MGA presents a dinner and seminar on Friday night and conducts the auction the next day. The association was forced to move it all to one night, which meant the meal, the seminar on Rosalind glass, and the auction made for one lengthy evening. “Overall, the association is very pleased, and the Matthew Wroda Auction did a great job,” Jones said. “We know it ran a little late, but pretty much the entire crowd stuck around until the end, which was very satisfying.”

Jones said there is a great deal of enthusiasm for Millersburg Glass throughout Holmes County because it is always a bit of a homecoming for the carnival glass that was created in Millersburg. He said the MGA always looks forward to providing as much insight and education on the glass as possible, in order to preserve the history of the glass. “Education and identifying pieces are part of what we do as an association,” Jones said. “Millersburg Glass continues to be the most collectible glass because of its beauty and rarity.”

Source: Article by Dave Mast, The Bargain Hunter-Holmes. October 17, 2020, Page 38-39.

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“I think the price these pieces brought is wonderful and I was excited to see that they ended up with some really great collectors,” Sieverdes said. “They are great collectors who are collecting very worthy pieces.” Sieverdes purchased one of the purple pitchers and that one will continue to call the museum its home.

While the pitchers highlighted the auction, there were many other pieces that drew plenty of attention, including a radium purple Big Fish Rose Bowl with a brilliant blue and yellow iridescent finish and a unique 10-inch Hanging Cherry ruffled bowl that featured a stamped impression of an Indian head penny in the base.

As always, the Wroda Auction brought together the collection. Its quality and auctioneer skill kept the proceedings lively in what turned out to be a long but fruitful night. Jim never disappoints.

The meeting room at Comfort Suites was full, with bidders seated at nearly every single available chair and then some. This particular Millersburg Glass Association auction faced some unique times with COVID-19, and Wroda and the MGA allowed online bidding, something that hasn't been available in any of the previous MGA auction events.

#### **Become a Member of the Millersburg Glass Association**

To renew or begin a membership, go to the [www.millersburgglass.com](http://www.millersburgglass.com) website to download a membership form. Send that form to Randy Jones, our new Treasurer. You can pay by check or PayPal. Be in touch with Randy at [rgj55@hotmail.com](mailto:rgj55@hotmail.com).

At this time, the annual MGA membership is \$15 for the calendar year. Benefits include the quarterly newsletter, access to a network of excellent carnival glass collectors who know a lot about glass, and the traditional pre-auction meal in October in the Millersburg Metro area.

As Randy Jones always says about MGA, “The nice thing is that our members get to fellowship with others who enjoy the hobby!”

Anyone sending in a membership check can mail it to:

Randy Jones, Treasurer  
Millersburg Glass Association  
PO Box 30  
Millersburg, Ohio 44654-0030

Thank you!

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## **Story Time from the Heart of a Genuine Collector**

### ***It Was A Cold and Windy Day.....***

as Snoopy in “*Peanuts*” would always start out his stories. And actually in this story that holds true: In our early marriage my husband and I used to go to auctions for a days worth of cheap entertainment. This auction was a southern Holmes County farm sale in late February, in the early 1960’s. We wandered from one end of the offerings to the other. At some point he found something he was interested in, and stayed with it, to see how much it would sell for.

I continued on, finally arriving at the farm wagons full of little items. One wagon held “guy-things”. Things like shovels, handsaws, etc. The other contained household items - pots and pans, household linens, etc.

I looked at each item, nothing especially grabbing my interest until ... an unusual piece of glass. This was a flattish yellow tinted bowl with an interesting pattern. My Grandmother had given us a set of 4 glasses with the same sort of tint. I thought they would fit together nicely on a shelf.



So, following my husband Guy's example, I stayed close by the wagon in hopes I could buy this piece of glass. The longer I stood there, the more I wanted it. And after seeing how high things were selling for, the more I hoped I could afford it!

There I stood in 40°, on a barnbank, in my full Carhart outfit, a scarf around my neck, my warm barn boots, and my warmest gloves, waiting in the cold for the auctioneer to pick it up and offer it for sale. I waited. And I waited. Guy showed up beside me at some point. His item had been sold a while ago. Mine was still sitting on the wagon waiting for its turn.

Item after item was sold and carried away by their happy purchasers. Still, my plate sat there. Finally. The auctioneer picked up *the last piece on the wagon* - “my” poor lonesome little plate. There was just a small crowd left, but being the last item for sale, I worried about my chances to buy it. (By this time in the long, cold, afternoon I was pretty sure I wanted to own this pretty little plate!)

Continued on next page.

The bidding began. \$5. \$10. \$15. “Oh, my. It's going to keep going. Well, I've waited all day for it, here goes. \$20, Mr. Auctioneer....”

“Anyone else want in on this little dish? Ahhh, there it is. I have \$25.”

And so it went, with me holding my breath with each bid. Finally, the last bid was in. The auctioneer couldn't talk the crowd into paying one more cent.

And I could finally quit holding my breath. I owned it! For all of \$40. A lot in those days, but if you love something you pay the price!

It was probably two or three years before I discovered the “name” of my little dish. *Marigold SEAWEED in Millersburg Glass*. It had been made right here in Holmes County, about 6 miles south of where we lived. How neat!

Now, think down the road a couple more years. We had 2 small children and a young baby-sitter/housekeeper now. The babysitter was the daughter of a good friend and a hard little worker.

She was nearly in tears when I got home from work one evening. She had been dusting, and something the kids did distracted her for a moment. Just for a moment. But that's all it took for my piece of Millersburg to crash to the floor. She had gathered it up to protect the kids and to show me. She felt so bad. I told her it was ok. It was just something I had bought at an auction years ago, not a family piece. She felt better about it then.

What I failed to tell her was the value of my beloved piece of glass had gone from the purchase price to a value of \$400 over those passing years. She still has never been told and I still own that little handful of glass that she handed me!

Guy searched for probably 10 years to replace the Seaweed dish for me. He finally located one a few years back, and I never have been brave enough to ask what he paid for it!

At last fall's auction we saw two matching Seaweeds. One was a marigold and the other was a green. I was having a “cheap day” and didn't even offer a bid on them. I am still kicking myself for that. They both were beautiful pieces, but the green especially caught my attention since I already have the marigold. And after 50+ years of collecting, Seaweed is still my favorite Millersburg Carnival Glass pattern – in *any* size, shape, or color!

*Contributed by “Jo” Ann Stallman*

Millersburg Glass Association member  
(And Glass Museum docent in non-Covid times)

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**Bernice Crum Clinage Crowthers (1898-1977)**  
**Millersburg Ohio**

By Judy Guest Rhodes and Cynthia Guest

***Antique Dealer and a People's Vase Trail of Ownership***

Bernice was a long-time resident of Millersburg, an entrepreneur and owner of various businesses during a time when most businesses were male owned.

One of her ventures was Geib's Shoe Rebuilding on S. Washington in Millersburg, Ohio which she purchased from T. W. Geib.

Her button collecting started her on the path of collecting and selling antiques. She mainly sold antiques from her home on W. Adams Street in town. The home is still standing today.

She plied her buying, selling and trading skills at antique shows. Bernice traveled around to Antique Shows in her 1949 Dodge stocked to the roof with items to sell. Once the car was packed, she was known to say: "there's room for my ass and a gallon of gas."



She kept detailed records, which we have, showing where she bought/sold items and for how much. At one point, she owned an Amethyst People's vase. When Bernice retired from "the business", she sold her modest carnival glass collection to Margaret and Forest Hochstetler of Wadsworth Ohio including the People's Vase.

In 2007, the amethyst vase sold as part of the Hochstetler collection by Billy Richards for \$65,000 to an individual in Pennsylvania. From there the vase traveled to Texas where it resides today.

While we have Bernice's records, there is no specific entry for the People's vase as to where, when and for how much she paid for it. Bernice inspired others to collect carnival glass. She was a very interesting person to know. She was ahead of her times in a male-dominated, entrepreneurial society.

To the current owners of the Amethyst People's vase, add this to the travel log of the purple vase and enjoy this piece as we know she did!!

Source: From the family of Bernice Crum Clinage Crowthers – Evelyn Bogner Guest (1912-1989), Judy Guest Rhodes and Cynthia Guest.

Special thanks to Judy Rhodes and Cindy Guest for sharing their story.

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## Latest News and Highlights from the Millersburg Glass Association Board of Directors

We Have Newly Elected Officers for 2021.

Steve Maag – President  
 John Buren – Vice-President  
 Chris Sieverdes – Secretary and Newsletter Editor  
 Randy Jones – Treasurer

The Newly Elected and Re-elected Board Members for 2021 are:  
 Larry Cullen, Bo Jones, Randy Jones, Tom Mordini, Jini Shy

2021 Millersburg Glass Association Board of Directors are: John Buren, Larry Cullen, Brian Foster, Lola Johnson, Bo Jones, Randy Jones, Gail Maag, Steve Maag, Sharee Miller, Tom Mordini, Jini Shy, Chris Sieverdes, and Mike Young.

### **Planned Millersburg Glass Association Activities for 2021:**

1. Playing Card Project - During the first half of 2021, we will implement a Playing Card Project whereby a prototype deck of cards will be designed with pictures of Millersburg Glass on the card. Once the photos are taken and sponsors are found, we plan to print 500 cards. Each sponsorship is asked to provide a unique photo for the face side of the card (where the suit and numbers show). We will provide a quality color photo of the Millersburg Glass Factory on the back side of all cards). We ask sponsors to pay \$35 for sponsorship of a single deck or two decks, each. The cost of sponsoring three decks is \$100. Sponsors will be recognized on their chosen decks. The working model is to charge \$10 or so per deck to customers. We still need to be sure about all set-up costs.
2. The Board will re-institute the use of membership numbers on MGA Membership Cards. Members will retain their original numbers when they first joined MGA.
3. The Board will meet on alternate odd-numbered months beginning in March 2021. We declare Covid-19 off-limits. Ha!
4. The MGA Membership fee is on hold for now. We do bear the expense of meals for attendees at the "Gathering" on the day or night prior to the Wroda auction in October in Millersburg. We are exceeding the break-even point at \$15 calendar year membership. Also the quarterly MGA Newsletter is distributed to those members who have working email addresses. Others are mailed.

### **Note from the MGA Newsletter Editor: Need Stories about Glass Collecting**

Please send me your stories and experiences with Millersburg Glass. We have a wonderful world-wide community of collectors!! I want juicy stories about how you got started, a special purchase, maybe some romance bonding over glass collecting and your shared interesting memories about special finds and meanings. Include a photo (600 dpi) (that's about 1,200 to 1,500+ KB) as needed to enhance your story.

Please send me your articles by April Fools Day if not sooner (say March 15) so I can successfully assemble them for the Spring Millersburg Glass Association Newsletter.

Also if you have agenda items for our upcoming Board meeting, send them along. Reach me at [csieverdes@gmail.com](mailto:csieverdes@gmail.com), 330-231-8576.

**Thank you for your support of the Association and all things Millersburg Glass**